

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A service center coupled to a gaming network and to an automatic teller network, comprising:
 - a computer-implemented player identifier structured to determine if a user ~~as is~~ an authorized holder of a player account residing on the gaming network;
 - a ticket reader;
 - a verifier coupled to the player identifier and the ticket reader, and structured to validate a ticket, issued by a gaming machine and presented by the user at the service center, of an authorized holder of a player account that is inserted into the ticket reader; ~~and~~
 - a payment dispenser structured to eject from the service center an amount of value only if the ticket of an authorized holder of a player account is validated[[.]]; ~~and~~
wherein the service center is structured such that the user can determine a balance of the player account, add a benefit to the player account, redeem a benefit from the player account and update information concerning the player account.
2. (Original) The service center of claim 1 wherein the ticket reader is a bill validator.
3. (Original) The service center of claim 1, further comprising a ticket printer.
4. (Original) The service center of claim 3 wherein the ticket printer is configured to print a tax form.
5. (Original) The service center of claim 1 wherein the player identifier is also structured to validate the user as an employee.

6 - 9. Canceled.

10. (Currently amended) A stand-alone service center that is coupled to a gaming network and that is structured to:

present transaction choices to a user and accept a selected choice;

verify an identity of a user and determine if the user has a player account residing on the gaming network;

accept a ticket issued by a gaming machine and presented by the user at a ticket reader at the service center;

validate the accepted ticket by comparing it to data stored on the gaming network;

provide a benefit to the user only if the ~~the~~ user is verified as having a player account and the accepted ticket is validated; and

wherein at the service center, the user can determine a balance of the player account, add a benefit to the player account, redeem a benefit from the player account and update information concerning the player account does not include the gaming machine.

11. (Original) The service center of claim 10 in which the service center is structured to provide a benefit to the user by providing currency to the user.

12. (Original) The service center of claim 10 in which the service center is structured to provide a benefit to the user by providing a new ticket to the user.

13. Cancel.

14. (Original) The service center of claim 10 wherein the service center is further structured to establish a data connection with an ATM network.

15. (Previously presented) The service center of claim 14 wherein the service center is structured to directly transfer an account value via the data connection from an account on the ATM network to the player account.

16. (Currently amended) A method of servicing a player account, comprising:
accepting an input at a station other than a gaming machine that is coupled to a gaming network;

determining if a player is an authorized holder of ~~an~~ a player account residing on the gaming network based on the input;

accepting a ticket issued by a gaming machine and presented by the player at a ticket reader at the station;

verifying the authenticity of the ticket;

providing something of value to the player only if the player is an authorized holder of ~~an~~ a player account and the authenticity of the ticket is verified; ~~and~~

recording that the ticket has been redeemed~~[.]~~; ~~and~~

wherein at the service center, the user can determine a balance of the player account, add a benefit to the player account, redeem a benefit from the player account and update information concerning the player account.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein providing something of value comprises adding value to a player account.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein providing something of value comprises ejecting currency from the station.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein providing something of value comprises printing another ticket from the station.

20. Canceled

21. (Currently amended) A method of servicing a player account at a service center coupled to a gaming network on which a plurality of player accounts are stored, the method comprising:

establishing a connection to the gaming network;

accepting an identification of a user;

comparing information from the identification to user data stored on the gaming network to determine if the user is an authorized holder of a player account stored on the gaming network;

authorizing the user when the information matches the stored user data;

accepting a ticket issued by a gaming machine from the user at the service center; comparing data from the ticket to ticket data stored on the gaming network; providing something of value to the user only if the data from the ticket matches the stored ticket data and the user is an authorized holder of a player account; establishing a data connection to an ATM network; and transferring money via the data connection from an account on the ATM network to the player account of the authorized user[[.]]; and
wherein at the service center, the user can determine a balance of the player account, add a benefit to the player account, redeem a benefit from the player account and update information about the player account.

22. Canceled.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
comparing information from the identification to employee data stored on the gaming network; and
authorizing an employee if the information from the identification matches the stored employee data.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising:
providing currency to the authorized employee; and
storing a record of providing the currency on the gaming network.